WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 9, NO. 5 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | SEPTEMBER 1998

"When it shall be said in any country in the world, my poor are happy, my jails are empty of prisoners & my streets of beggars, then may that country boast of its constitution and its government." Thomas Paine

Blaming Poverty on the Poor, or Welfare "Reform"

What it is, who it is hurting, who it will hurt, what it may mean to all of us, and some ideas about reforming the reform

Frank Hoffman

This begins a series of articles in WIP about welfare reform, and what it means to people here in Olympia. We are joined in this series by people receiving public assistance, now called Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, who are organizing in Olympia into the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition (WROC). The people at the meeting of WROC I attended in August share economic distress and concern for children. I do not speak for them. They are speaking for themselves. Further along here, Monica Peabody, who is an organizer for WROC, speaks her voice.

First, some of my thoughts about why this subject -poverty in the U.S. and how we respond to it - is important to us in Olympia . Most of us, everyday, put some energy into trying to get along. We think of ourselves as belonging here. It's our home. And we are always thinking about who else belongs here, in our home. Who we are comfortable being around, who amuses us, who makes us feel good, who helps us make it through our days. And who makes us feel uncomfortable, uneasy and afraid. These thoughts and feelings push us to behave in certain ways, cause us to support particular laws or make us angry at kinds of behavior and at other people. We are not always aware of these thoughts and feelings, and many of them are suggested to us, they don't come out of our own, first-hand experiences. They come from our parents, teachers, friends, the T.V., movies, conversations we hear on the bus - you know, from everything around us, all our lives. If we never question these given definitions of the world, think consciously about them , turn them over in our minds, then it's like we become mentally ill. We don't see what we see. We see what we're taught, by all these forces, to believe we see. It's like, instead of thinking, we run a tape the world gave us. When we see a confederate flag, we think silly redneck; when we see a black teenager, we see gangsta; when we hear somebody questioning America, we think Communist agitator: you get the idea. This series represents an attempt to actually "see" low-income people, and to feel what it's like to get what the government gives you when you're desperate, when you're on welfare.

This series represents an attempt to actually "see" low-income people, and to feel what it's like to get what the government gives you when you're desperate, when you're on welfare.

Most of the poor are children. Most of the poor are children. Are we angry at children for being poor? We know that if we don't help children the human species will go away. We know that unhealthy children will eventually create an unhealthy community.

Next year, single parents with a child older than 3 months, to receive public assistance, must be looking for a job. Pretty bizarre. If we were in communities organized around raising and protecting children, where everybody shared in that responsibility, this law would still create difficulties for many children 4 months old. This law appears to be a kind of punishment of children. For having low income parents. What do you think? Send WIP a letter. And look for next month's issue.

Fernando Flores, Maquiladora Union Organizer, Speaks in Olympia

Frank Hoffman

Fernando Flores, a worker in the Han Young de Mexico plant in Tijuana, Mexico, spoke at the Liberation Cafe in downtown Olympia August 7. His talk was translated by Alma Ortiz,who is from Los Angeles.

Mr. Flores, and other Han Young de Mexico workers, make between $3.00 and $4.50 a day. The company gives only words to safety issues.

There are few independent labor unions in Mexico - as in this country. Most Mexican unions are controlled by the government (the control is not as direct in this country, still the big unions never stray far from the Democratic Party.) The Han Young Tijuana plant makes chassis parts for Hyundai ; Hyundai is the sole customer of the plant. Hyundai, a Korean company, is being struck by Korean workers because the company , citing low profits, is laying off thousands of workers in South Korea.

Mr. Flores, and other Han Young de Mexico workers, make between $3.00 and $4.50 a day. The company gives only words to safety issues. Tired of false promises, despite the existence of a company union, 57 workers asked their group to be certified.There was an election, supervised by the government, in October. 56 workers voted for the independent union, 26 voted against (there are about a 100 workers in the plant). The government said the independent union had lost the election.

The workers started a hunger strike in November in front of the government offices. Embarassed, company and government officials showed up in December to negotiate with the workers. There was a recount, and despite intimidation from the company union, the independents won again. The workers asked the company and the government to certify the election - they continue to refuse.

That's why there are 57 strikers in front of the Han Young de Mexico plant. 800 workers in the region want to affiliate with these independents.

Members of the Olympia Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) join Maquiladora pickets at Hyundai dealership in Lacey.

Trim Bissell, the national coordinator for the Campaign for Labor Rights, which helped organize this speaking tour, spoke after Mr. Flores. He said there are a million workers in 3000 factories along the border. What is unusual about this independent group of 57 is that in the 14 months they have been organizing, they have not backed off and many other workers in other border factories want to join them.

They need our support, the support of organized labor in this country and they need money. Please send checks made out to SCMW, for Strike Solidarity, to:

Support Committee for Maquiladors Workers
3909 Centre Street, #210
San Diego CA 92103

Olympia Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition

by Monica Peabody

I became involved with the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition (WROC) when I was a single mother living in a studio apartment in Seattle's Central District. I was isolated and overwhelmed. And when I told people I was surviving on welfare because my daughter's father abandoned us a few weeks after she was born, I was often flabbergasted at their response. It seemed I was the bad guy. Everyone from my own parents to complete strangers made me feel like I was some sort of loser. The injustice of this bowled me over. Then when I met that attitude from a social worker in the welfare office it was too much.

WROC is an organization made up of low income parents and others advocating for social and economic justice. When I discovered there was someone I could call with specific questions about the welfare system and they were on my side, I was thrilled. I started attending WROC meetings and began the process of shattering the stereotypes within myself.When I looked around the room there were amazing women and men speaking up about the injustice of poverty in their lives and the lives of others. These people weren't, "lazy, stupid or unmotivated". They weren't

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WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred). Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, wip@ olywa.net, or come by our office and drop it in the "WIP Box" located in the Liberation Cafe.

Back Issues:

A complete set of back issues is located in the library of Liberation Cafe along with a chrono-index. Back issues are also available in the Olympia Timberland Library. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

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Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

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The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, Sept. 18th

6pm at Liberation Cafe

Proofreading Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 22nd
7pm at Liberation Cafe

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Letters & Briefs

Craswell's Cronies Being Deceptive - Who Knew?

by Jon Bartholomew

The power of the far right wing was potently demonstrated a couple months ago. Initiative 694 proponents gathered 10,000 more valid signatures than they needed in only six weeks with no paid signature gatherers. How they got this many signatures and how they hope to pass I-694 in November has been in large part due to deception.

I have heard from people who signed I-694 who were told that it would outlaw so-called "partial-birth abortion". I have seen letters to the editors of major newspapers claiming the same thing and calling it the "truth about I-694". Well, guess what, that is a lie.

The proponents of I-694 are people who desire to see all abortions for any reason stopped. American Heritage Party member Ellen Craswell's personal doctor and neighbor, Robert Bethell, filed the initiative. It is part of the American Heritage Party platform to abolish all abortions. I-694 would go a long way to accomplish that if passed.

I-694 nowhere bans any abortion procedure, let alone the so-called "partial birth" one. What the initiative actually does is define the process of birth in such a way that almost all abortions would include the process of birth. As far as doctors and lawyers can figure out (this initiative has strange non-medical language that claims to be based on medical science), I-694 would outlaw all abortions after 8 weeks of gestation. The initiative even claims not to affect abortion, but clearly does, so that is yet another lie.

Another lie is that this would affect only third-trimester abortions. Well, those are already illegal in Washington State except to protect the life or health of the woman. And besides, there is no language in I-694 that talks about viability or gestation periods, so it can be applied to any point in a pregnancy.

Because I-694 uses non-medical terminology and then claims to be based on medicine, as well as the interference into doctors performing the best medicine they can, the Washington State Medical Association (WSMA) is opposing I-694. I-694 even tries to change medical and scientific standards that no law has any jurisdiction to do.

Already many organizations are opposing I-694 including the ACLU, NW Women's Law Center, NOW, WA NARAL, Planned Parenthood, WSMA, Washington Women United, and dozens of others. This is because they can see through the lies and see that this is an assault on women's rights.

I-694 would be clearly thrown out of court as unconstitutional, but we should not wait until then to stop it. We should send a clear message to the religious political extremists that we do not tolerate challenging a womanÆs right to choose, and we are offended that they are trying to use emotions and lies to further their agenda. Vote NO on I-694, volunteer on the NO campaign, and if you can, help finance the NO campaign. The campaign phone number is 206.728.5919, (or 253.627.2997 in Pierce County) and they would love some help.

Jon Bartholomew is the Planned Parenthood of Western Washington Public Affairs Field Coordinator.

News from Dr. Death

Warning- this may be difficult material for some readers.

by Sarah Light

Joseph Tushkowski lived in Nevada. He had been quadriplegic for 21 years. Joseph never had adequate aid to allow him to live independently- he never used a power wheelchair and lived with his mother rather than going to a nursing home. Sounds like independent living services were not available. What would Joseph's life have been like with a power wheelchair, his own place, his own assistants that he could hire and fire, his own money...?

Instead of justice, equality, and access- Joseph Tushowski got Dr. Kevorkian. I have seen videos made by Dr. Death of his "counseling" sessions with potential clients/victims. The man has no skills other than that of manipulation. There is no informed consent. Dr. Death leads people down the path of death, he pre-determines their end result. Is there a complete full effort to address societal injustices which can lead to depression, isolation, inadequate or nonexistent pain management.....? No. Dr. Death passes judgment and executes.

So Dr. Death killed Joseph Tushowski in June of this year. And then he removed Joseph's kidneys, put them in a beer cooler and offered them for transplant. How did Dr. Death do this? Did he do this deed with permission and surgical skill and respect? No. He used twine and kitchen shears. A medical examiner said that the body was mutilated and that is was "slaughterhouse surgery"

Michael Odette, Kevorkian's long time lawyer lap dog has resigned from the case. Mr. Odette said, "Al-

(Continued on page 14)

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SEPTEMBER 1998

Unemployment Statistics

"unused, available labor resources"

*** Each month 60,000 households across the country are interviewed by phone in the Government's Current Population survey to measure unemployment.**

*** Information is collected on all household members 16 years and older concerning their employment activities of the previous month's week of the 12th.**

*** People are considered employed if they did any work at all for pay or profit during the week of the 12th. This includes people with a job but not at work and family workers who worked 15 hours or more in a week without pay for a family-operated enterprise.**

*** People are considered unemployed if they do not have a job, have actively looked for work in the prior 4 weeks, and are currently available for work.**

*** The (civilian) Work Force is defined as those considered "employed" or "unemployed" and does not include those who are members of the military.**

*** Unemployment statistics are intended to provide counts of unused, available labor resources. They are not measures of the number of persons who are suffering economic hardship.**

Source: The U.S. Department of Labor

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AUGUST S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	OCTOBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	**1** 1997 - Mexico says it will double import duties on American apples it contends are being sold at artificially low prices	**2** 1916- Wilson signs bill requiring 8-hour day for railway workers 1921- Mineowners bomb West Virginia strikers by plane	**3** 1997 - Locke confirms he ordered State Patrol to continue warrant checks though they were outlawed by state Supreme Court	**4** 1957- Arkansas troopers bar nine African-American students from entering Central High School in Little Rock	**5** 1877- Crazy Horse killed while in custody 1963- Gov Wallace closes three white schools scheduled for imminent integration
6 1995 - Sen. ethics committee recommends Packwood be expelled 1997 - Carson & Barnes Circus picketed at TESC	**7** 1904- Huntsville, AL: mob of 2,000 lynches black man from jail 1963- S. Vietnam arrests 800 demonstrating high school students	**8** 1974- Richard Nixon pardoned by President Gerald Ford 1965- UFW starts strike against California grape growers	**9** 1919- Boston's police on strike for city recognition of their union 1971- Inmates seize Attica State Correctional Facility (NY)	**10** 1997 - 70 Puget Sound Energy employees walked off jobs in Olympia protesting use of nonunion subcontractor in Everson	**11** 1997 - Fired Evergreen State College police Sgt. Larry Savage files a $10 million claim for damages against Evergreen State College	**12** 1995 - 1,000 Natives rally on US Capitol steps protesting a Senate budget-cutting plan that would cut federal funding to tribes
13 1663- First serious slave conspiracy in colonial America 1997 - US military plane crashes off African coast killing 31	**14** 1972- Idi Amin loses $3 million US loan after he praises Hitler 1997 - U.S. Navy plane crashes in Oman killing pilot	**15** 1997 - Marine figher jet crashes in North Carolina killing two 1997 - Dept of Agriculture reports 11 million Americans go hungry	**16** 1997 - 2 Air National Guard planes collide off N Jersey coast 1997 - Gorton stops effort to remove tribal lawsuit protection	**17** 1997 - Special session passes bill to allow checks on motorists 1997 - Defense Secretary halts military training flights for 24 hrs	**18** 1997 - The Fleetwood Building's first low-income tenants move in 1997 - CDC announces newly diagnosed AIDS cases dropped in 1996	**19** 1885- Chinese coal miners driven out of Black diamond WA 1997 - Air Force bomber crashes in Montana, kills four
20 1973- Billie Jean King beat Bobby Riggs in 3 straight sets 1995 - House votes to repeal the 55-mph speed limit	**21** 1995 - With nearly 35,000 absentee ballots counted, the proposal to build a $325 million Mariners stadium passes by 301 votes	**22** 1862- Emanicpation Proclamation 1997 - Air Force begins stand-down with all combat crews to reinforce safety procedures	**23** 1997 - Skokomish Indians file claim for $100 million from Tacoma for damages caused by the Cushman hydropower project	**24** 1957- President Dwight Eisenhower sent 1,000 Army paratroopers to Little Rock, AK to enforce desegregation of Central High School	**25** 1997 - IRS Commissioner Michael Dolan announces the IRS will stop using quotas for audits and property seizures	**26** 1944- 1st Hanford Reactor began operation 1996 - Palestinian police and Israeli troops fighting kills 38 Palestinians and 11 Israelis
27 1875- Striking textile workers demand bread for starving children in Fall River, Mass 1996 - Amy Revay is shot down by husband	**28** 1997 - Bill Gates tops Forbes 400 list w/ $39.8 billion 1997 - Hong Kong reduces eligible voters to fewer than 200,000	**29** 1997 - Census Bureau: rich got richer, poor got poorer in 1996 1997 - Study reveals cocktail treatment for AIDS has 50% failure	**30** 1962- Meredith escorted onto U of Miss campus by US Marshals and 3,000 federal troops: two men die in mob violence	**"Whenever the dollar is held supreme and capitalistic interests dominate, a higher value will always be placed upon property rights than upon human rights."** **Dick Gregory**		

Along the Color Line

Beyond Integration

Dr. Manning Marable

In Chicago this June, over two thousand African-American activists came together for several days to map strategies for rebuilding the black freedom movement. The Black Radical Congress (BRC) attracted many veterans of Black Power, anti-apartheid and Rainbow Coalition campaigns, as well as hundreds of college students and young workers who were only becoming involved in black activist struggles. Ideologically and politically, an impressive spectrum of viewpoints were represented at the two dozen well-attended workshops and at the massive plenary sessions: Communists, lesbian and gay rights activists, democratic sociologists, revolutionary nationalists, radical feminists, labor union activitists, and many others. Yet within this broad diversity among conference organizers, speakers and nearly all participants, there was one common denominator: we were black.

There were, at best forty whites who were in the audience of over 1,600 at the opening plenary on Friday night. Many of these were journalists like David Moberg, who covered the conference for the Boston Globe. The only racial flashpoint of any significance that weekend occurred when several arrogant, white would-be revolutionaries briefly disrupted the Youth Caucus. Even then, the response of young African American activists was remarkably restrained.

One might be tempted to say that the relative invisibility of whites at the BRC was a good thing. It's true that most black people usually have more focused, productive discussions on serious issues affecting African Americans when whites are not around. This is because many white Americans, even despite years of racial etiquette acquired in the post-Civil rights period, still feel uneasy talking honestly about race. What used to be called "the Negro Problem" is now subsumed under a murky series of policy talking points, such as affirmative action, minority economic set-asides, crime, welfare reform and the urban "underclass." The very concept of a "Black Agenda" on public policy issues is virtually never talked about in the national media, and only rarely in integrated informal settings.

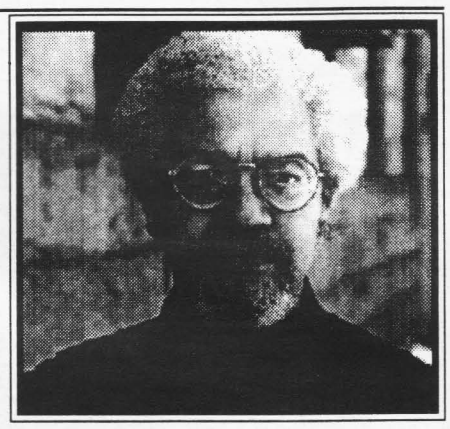
To eradicate race as an oppressed social force requires the development of race-conscious formations which advocate the integrity and empowerment of the black community.

For most white Americans, "race" becomes something to overcome, or perhaps even ignore, rather than use as a central starting point for interrogating the dynamics of structural inequality throughout society.

This does not mean, of course, that black radicalism must be "antiwhite." The overwhelming majority of black organizers and co-conveners at the BRC were themselves members of multiracial political organizations. Among the speakers at the Saturday morning plenary were lesbian activist Cathy Cohen, Communist Party Vice Chair Jarvis Tyner, welfare rights organizer Marian Kramer, and multiracial labor organizer Tyee Scott. Bill Fletcher, the activist most responsible for initiating the BRC project, is the director of the AFL-CIO's education department. Angela Davis, a prominent speaker on Friday evening, is a leader of the multiracial socialist group, the Committees of Correspondence.

The paradox each of us, as activists and theorists of color, must confront is the inescapable reality that race-based organizing must be used to dismantle institutional racism. To eradicate race as an oppressed social force, as a pivotal element within the political economy of inequality, requires the development of race-conscious formations which advocate the integrity and empowerment of the black community.

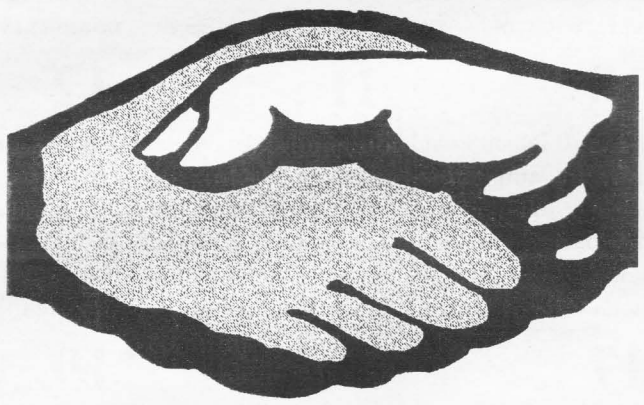
Many of my white liberal colleagues, especially in academia, think about "racial progress" in terms of traditional racial integration. In other words, hypersegregated, racialized



innercity communities are symbols of the nation's failure to overcome institutional racism. The more racially integrated neighborhoods are, the less likely that poverty, unemployment and other social problems will be as heavily concentrated in brown and black areas. While this basic approach is true, it in some respects ignores the historical fact that the vast majority of white, middle class Americans have only rarely taken mass, collective actions to end the socioeconomic consequences of racism.

All-black or all-Latino neighborhoods, in themselves aren't the problem: the destruction of jobs, substandard housing, inadequate healthcare, deteriorating schools and public transportation systems are. Racial integration shouldn't be the "goal" of the black freedom movement. "Equality"—the dismantling of all institutional barriers to human development and the redefinition of the social contract to be fully democratic and egalitarian—is the goal. If integration helps us get there, fine. If not, other tools must be employed. Integration must be viewed as a means, not the end, in the struggle for black liberation.

LABOR DAY CELEBRATION



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Up Front

Kenya, Tanzania, Sudan, Afghanistan:

A Cycle of Violence

Jerome Johnson

On 7 August, someone detonated truck bombs at the US Embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. 257 people—mostly civilians—were killed and another five thousand people wounded. The blasts occurred in the downtown areas at the height of the business day. Both embassies were badly damaged and the surrounding African buildings destroyed.

Within hours of the tragedies, fed by "reliable Administration sources", the media began its usual wild speculation. This time I was surprised—instead of Saddam Hussein, the focus was put onto one Osama bin Laden, an Arabian guerilla living in Afghanistan. Frankly I don't know why there were no accusations against Saddam. After all, he's been our Favorite Bad Guy for years, and on 5 August he'd told UNSCOM there would be no more unannounced inspections of his facilities. But almost immediately, fed by "Administration sources," the speculation zeroed in on bin Laden. File tapes of his CNN interview began showing on TV, with commentary like "suspect", "key threat", and "prime target of the investigation." This, despite no evidence at the time—so soon after the bombings. The investigation hadn't even begun before the US media had convicted bin Laden, hanging on every word of "senior Administration officials," who knew that they had to Say SOMETHING now and Do SOMETHING soon, especially given the Lewinsky scandal.

Moreover, the speculation went like a brushfire, much faster than the painful rescue effort and investigation. Like Oklahoma City , bombings of this kind are especially difficult because the rescue effort must come first. The trouble is—even for the vaunted Israelis—the speed and priority of the rescue inadvertently disturbs the crime scene, with the risk of losing critical evidence. Please don't get me wrong—rescuing survivors must be and correctly is the highest priority. Terrorists know this and hope for it, which is why they choose to bomb public buildings when there are as many people around as possible, like McVeigh did. And even if the crime scene can be kept pristine until investigators arrive, such cases are still very difficult and time-consuming. It was very irresponsible of the media to accuse anyone without solid evidence, and especially in the context of the Kenya bombing. Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi has ruled the country with an iron fist for decades, killing and jailing his political opponents, controlling the press, running a corrupt government, stalling elections. There is no sign of his changing his mind and allowing Kenya to become a democracy. Yet Kenya under Moi has been a staunch US ally since the Cold War. The US-Kenya military relationship has grown since the port of Mombasa became a vital staging area during the Gulf War. The US and its allies used the Nairobi airport to fly personnel and supplies. Then, as well as during operations in Somalia in 1992-93 and up to now, Nairobi and Mombasa are key R & R, support and staging areas for operations by US forces in East Africa, the Middle East, the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. However, no "opinion maker" has yet considered the possibility that the Nairobi bombing was against Moi and/or his close relationship with the US.

Why not?

On 20 August, the US—in a surprise attack—unleashed a storm of cruise missiles against Khartoum, the capital of the Sudan, and Khost, a place roughly three hundred miles southeast of Kabul, near the border with Pakistan. The targets were Khartoum's Shaifa pharmaceutical plant and a camp called Zhawar Kili al-Badr. In an act of state-sponsored terrorism, about 50 cruise missiles with high-explosive warheads were fired from US Navy ships, surface and submarine, in the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea. At this writing estimates are more than 30 dead, 7 wounded in Sudan, and 25 dead, 30 wounded in Afghanistan. The US — led by the President—insisted that both places were controlled by bin Laden and used as terrorist facilities. The plant in Sudan was alleged to be making ingredients for chemical weapons, and the camp in Afghanistan to be a terrorist school, soon to host a "gathering of terrorists." After the missile strikes the President, secretaries of State and Defense, the National Security Adviser and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, all spent the afternoon on worldwide TV, trying to justify these acts of war against sovereign nations which are not at war with and never have attacked the US or its allies. Their rationale is as follows:

1) Based largely on the statements of one of the alleged Kenya/Tanzania bombers, arrested while trying to pass into Afghanistan. "Under questioning", according to the Administration, "he provided compelling evidence which gave our intelligence community a high confidence that Osama bin Laden and his followers were responsible" for the African bombings.

2) For security reasons, the Administration would not tell us precisely what the evidence is, how it was obtained, whether it's been corroborated, or just why their confidence is so high.

3) Since bin Laden had declared war on the US, the military response was necessary. This was not a crime investigation, it was a national security interest, requiring a military response. As a result, no need to bother with niceties such as issuing a warrant for bin Laden's arrest or going to the United Nations. No due process, no rule of law. As Gen. Henry Shelton, the first Green Beret Chairman of the JCS, growled, "We're in a different ball game here, the normal rules don't apply. This is a different kind of war."

Janet Reno, Attorney General and the nation's top law enforcement official, remains conspicuous by her silence.

More interesting, the same people who were bitter about Clinton because he lied to them believe, almost without question, his rationales for the attacks on Sudan and Afghanistan. Some people correctly question the timing of the attacks. Is it really a coincidence that they occurred on the day Lewinsky returned to Starr's grand jury, reportedly (according to "sources") contradicting Clinton's earlier testimony?

People wonder. Why attack the Sudanese facility now? It was a "fixed target", a building that wasn't going anywhere. It's been there for years, and if it was such a threat, why are we just now hearing about it?

In Afghanistan, Administration officials all insist that they weren't trying to kill bin Laden, only "take out the infrastructure of the terrorist facility." This, while admitting they "expected" bin Laden to be there. But the US wasn't trying to kill him when the missiles struck at 10:30 PM Afghan time, because there's a law against that, an executive order signed by President Ford in 1975. And as we all know, the US would

(Continued page 15)

I don't know who bombed Nairobi and Dar es Salaam. Whoever did it should be arrested and tried in Kenyan and Tanzanian courts, the entire matter handled by due process.

On Violence by Frank Hoffman

I heard John Trudell say once something that meant to me, once you pick up violence, you can't put it down. The United States is one of the most violent societies in the world. It has more civilian homicides, citizen killing citizen, and more people per capita in prison, than any other industrial nation. And so with our government. It has and does, support oppression all over the world, from Central and South America to Africa and Asia. It does it in the name of creating stable environments for business. And in our names, to protect "our way of life." People all over the world can buy Coca Cola and Big Macs - those that can afford them.

All of this is done violently. Cultures are diluted or destroyed. Natural resources are stolen. We should expect anger and violence in return.

Thousands of African men ,women and children are injured by bombs directed at our government and its violence. Our media and our government ignore them.

Our government, instead, drops more bombs and kills more children. As if it believes *we* won't care because they are not our children. They are our children. We are in this together, all of us.

We must end the violence. And be silent no more.

Impeach Him!

by Ron Jacobs

I have to admit, I've been unwilling to voice these words despite my dislike of Bill Clinton's politics and political sleaziness. But the time has come. In order to divert our attention from the sex, lies and semen stains emanating from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, he, Madeleine (Mad Dog) Albright and the rest of the foreign policy clowns killed unknown numbers of Afghanis, Pakistanis, and Sudanese and further endangered American lives by firing dozens of cruise missiles—the U.S. military equivalent of a car bomb—at targets that may or may not be related to a shadowy enterprise devoted to opposing the U.S.'s new world order. (An enterprise originally funded by the CIA, by the way.) This act of aggression is just one more battle in the ongoing war of the century between the "have nots" of the world and the "haves". It is a war that will not be resolved by sophisticated weaponry, acts of revenge, or the displacement and imprisonment of whole populations. It can only be resolved by a re-ordering of the priorities of the wealthy nations and those whom they work for and a redistribution of the world's wealth.

As for Clinton's sexcapades, not only have his lies and excuses gone on long enough, they are providing the worst members of America's political landscape with much more power than they should have. These theocratic fascists are imposing their moral standard on the American mindset in a way so insidious it will be years before the full repercussions are felt. Clinton, meanwhile, helps their cause with every lie he tells us. If the president were an African-American non-commissioned officer (NCO) in the military who had been involved in the "lapses of judgement" Clinton has admitted to, that NCO would have been stripped of his rank and retirement benefits long ago. Not to mention he may well be doing hard time. The longer Clinton remains in the White House, the greater the chances are that those who have him right where they want him—that is, Starr and his right wing cronies—will end up with far more say in the direction of America's future than they ever would have had if they had had to be elected. That, my friends, is a scary thought.

Does the media sell ads to put out news or does it put out news to sell ads?

Free Press? Media's Dependency on Advertising

Pat Tassoni

Who really pays?

Advertising funds most newspapers, and makes them either free or fairly cheap. Businesses always have an advertising column in their budget so the cost of their ads is included in the price of goods you buy. So the consumer always pays for advertising in the end (whether or not you buy the newspapers.)

Advertisers are muscling newspapers.

Advertisers, not government, are the principal news censors in the United States. Not only do advertisers pressure newspapers to kill or alter stories but newspapers censor stories out of deference "toward the sources of their money" without being told. While other groups try to influence or suppress coverage, advertisers wield a unique economic club over television stations by withdrawing or threatening to withdraw advertising.

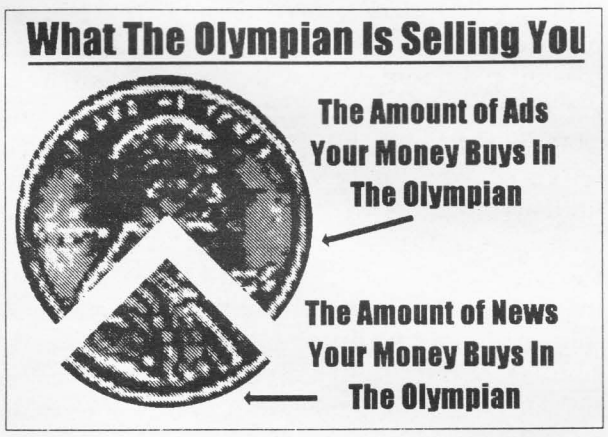
Of the 1,700 daily papers, 98 percent are local monopolies and fewer than 15 corporations control most of the country's daily circulation.

Nearly three-quarters of a survey respondents reported that advertisers had "tried to influence the content" of news at their stations. The majority of respondents also reported that advertisers had attempted to kill stories. As for whether there had "been pressure from within your station to produce news stories to please advertisers," 56 percent of respondents reported that there was.

As a result, publishers are more and more responsive to the demands of their advertisers. It is a disaster for anything but the most superficial notion of democracy—a democracy where those who own the world ought to govern it.

To whom is the news catered?

With just 412 of *the Olympian*'s readers (less than 1/2 of 1%) who respond ed to the papers contest and decided "The Best Of South Sound," the content of their reporting is similarly targeted. When a survey showed a number of *Olympian* readers had internet capability, the corporation developed a web site for them to view classifieds, ads, and other things. Again the business is catering to a certain class of consumer-reader.


What The Olympian Is Selling You
The Amount of Ads Your Money Buys In The Olympian
The Amount of News Your Money Buys In The Olympian

As if that isn't bad enough, look at who owns the media!

For Gannett's profile, see sidebar.

A global commercial media system dominated by a small number of super-powerful, mostly U.S.-based transnational media corporations works to advance the cause of the global market and promote commercial values, while denigrating journalism and culture not conducive to the immediate bottom line or long-run corporate interests.

Representatives of corporations will say that good journalism is good business, and so there is no conflict. It is true that a news outlets' credibility is one of its assets, which can be eroded by blatantly biased reporting. But to corporate owners, the value of that asset may be far outweighed by the gains to be made by using their media to promote their other lines of business—and news decisions will more often be subordinated to corporate strategies.

The management of a corporate news outlet, by law, must not allow other considerations (like journalistic ethics or the public interest) to stand in the way of profits—otherwise it would be abandoning its fiduciary responsibility to its stockholders, and would be subject to a lawsuit.

Of the 1,700 daily papers, 98 percent are local monopolies and fewer than 15 corporations control most of the country's daily circulation. A handful of firms have most of the magazine business, with Time, Inc. alone accounting for about 40 percent of that industry's revenues. The three networks still have majority access to the television audience, and most of the book business is controlled by fewer than a dozen companies, with major categories like paperback and trade books dominated by still fewer firms.

The American audience, having been exposed to a narrowing range of ideas over the decades, often assumes that what it sees and hears in the major media is all there is. It is no way to maintain a lively marketplace of ideas, which is to say that it is no way to maintain a democracy. When the producers of a media product like film, newspaper, or television have no opposing viewpoints or contrary opinion, then the public is denied the free access to competing ideas envisioned by the First Amendment.

Community Media Sources

Rumor has it that people are working on a more complete listing of such sources and WIP will keep you updated as it becomes available. But for now here are a few sources that you can support and become involved in:

KAOS - Radio 89.3 FM
The Evergreen State College
Olympia, WA 98505 (360)866-6000

TCTV - Community Access TV
440 Yauger Way SW, Suite C
Olympia, WA 98502 (360)956-3100

Gannett & Newpapers

Gannett is the largest newspaper chain with 84 dailies in 36 states and 2 territories with a total circulation of 6.4 million, 40 weeklies, 10 TV stations, 16 radio stations, the largest billboard advertising company in North America, Louis Harris polling firm. Mid-1980s networth was $3.3 billion with a $364 million profit. Gannett has bought 26 Pulitzer prizes along with newpapers they purchased. The Gannett Company has won only 8 such prizes.

Since the 1950s, more than 400 papers have succumbed to the single-buy mentality, as advertisers everywhere found it easier to deal with only the dominant paper. In 1974, 20 cities had competing daily newspapers left; in 1991 there were only 16. In the entire Gannett chain, there is only one city with a competing paper. Gannett's objective is to monopolize the smaller markets, cut costs at the expense of news coverage and drive out any competition.

Anti-Trust Lawsuits

Community Publications Inc. vs Gannett Co., Salem Oregon charging Gannett with "extremely callous" disregard of the antitrust laws. Terms of settlement: sealed documents and Gannett paid $1-4 million to Community Publications Inc.

Gannett Outdoor was found guilty of criminal price-fixing with their 45,000 billboards in 300 markets which cover 85% of the population. They were fined $850,000 for the anti-trust violation.

Rock Valley Community Press, Inc., Rockford Illinois sues Gannett, claiming they had embarked upon an extensive, deliberate campaign of lying about the circulation, distribution and auditing of the Rock Valley weekly papers. Gannett countersues.

Joint Operating Agrees.

Most of the nation's 25 or so Joint Operating Agreements exist not between independent papers, struggling to hold on in cities where they have deep roots, but between papers owned by chains, with ample resources to cover deficits with profits made elsewhere. Gannett has the most JOAs of any chain: 8.

No matter how many millions of dollars the papers make, regardless of challenges to the monopoly by the people who read them, JOA monopoly stand. And despite obvious antitrust conflicts, no municipal, county, or state government agency can force a paper even to make its financial documents public. Only Congress can change the law. The winners: big-money, corporate-chain dailies, especially those in America's remaining two-daily cities. The losers: smaller dailies, community papers, alternative weeklies — and readers nationwide.

USA Today

Between 1982 and 1992, USA Today made no profit. In 1991 alone its losses were $20 million, and the cumulative deficit was $800 million. Gannett's answer to the paper's shortfall was to jack up the return from its other papers to cover the shortfall by squeezing its captive markets ever harder. In 1993, with 1.8 million readers, the paper showed its first small operating profit.

Source:

***The Chain Gang* by Richard McCord**

Anarchists Strategize and Act Out in Toronto

Stephanie Guilloud

Organized anarchy is not an oxymoron. Active Resistance, a revolutionary left, anti-capitalist gathering and convention uniting theory and practice, took place in Toronto, Ontario from August 17-23. The week-long conference drew anarchists and activists from all across Canada and the United States. Over 300 people registered and probably 500 people participated in the workshops, core groups, and forums throughout the week. For over a year, organizers in Toronto and other cities planned to host a conference that followed the model of Active Resistance in Chicago that happened two years ago. That conference coincided with the 1996 Democratic Convention as an alternative to the rhetoric and party lines of a dying democracy. The counter-convention faced police raids and virtually no media coverage, but provided avenues for networking, coalition-building, and public expression. Active Resistance 98 (AR98) provided similar avenues for debate and action.

Organized anarchy is not an oxymoron. Active Resistance, a revolutionary left, anti-capitalist gathering and convention uniting theory and practice, took place in Toronto, Ontario from August 17-23.

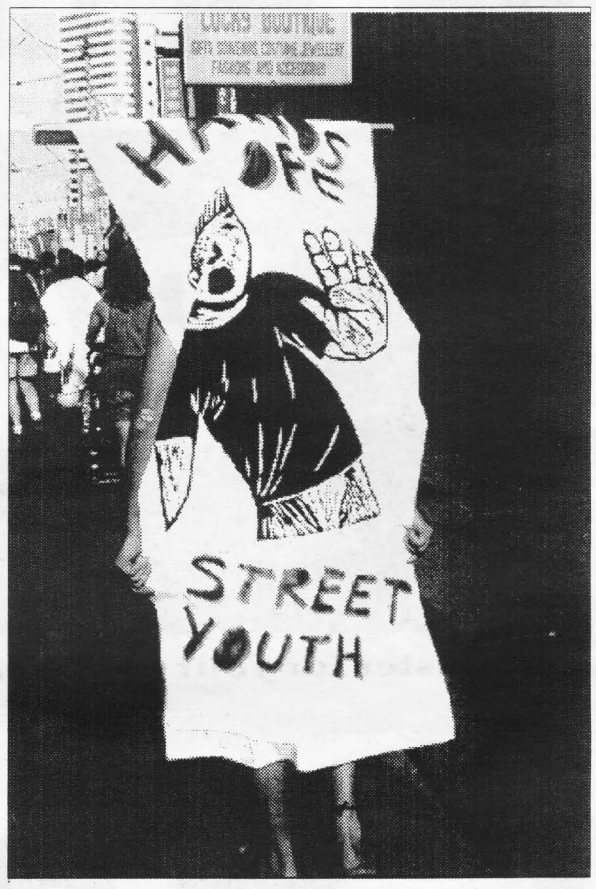
The mission statement declares that AR98 will work to transform society and ourselves by confronting all forms of domination based on tactics of resistance and direct action. Participants were invited to choose one of four core groups that met every afternoon which included Alternative Economics, Community Organizing, Art & Revolution, and Building Revolutionary Movements. The mornings and late afternoons offered Free Skool workshops on topics that ranged all across the board, including: radical parenting, community responses to police brutality, bike maintenance, lay midwifery, starting infoshops, and strategies to resist globalization. Three evenings provided forums on Indigenous struggles, Chiapas, and political prisoner support.

From my perspective, the conference drew a predominantly white crowd. Ages ranged and diversity existed, but the dominant culture of the week was young, white, and punk. Even so, the atmosphere was rich with varied experiences from all different struggles like Earth First!, Food Not Bombs, urban grassroots organizing, and artist movements. A Canadian national paper described the group as haggard and "battle-weary." The article also mentioned that the AR crowd was not one that believed in holding hands and chanting in order to change the world. People came by hopping trains, hitchiking, driving, and flying. A willingness to learn and share pervaded the environment and encouraged a diversity of voices.

The organizing collective tried to make the process and structure of the week as "transparent and participatory as possible." People's perspectives and expectations of what anarchist process is all about varies across a wide spectrum of possibility. Mainstream media and culture manipulates the definition of anarchy to signify chaos or violent individualism. The Active Resistance Conference, though by no means a perfect model, attempted to provide an organizing structure that represented an egalitarian and democratic decision-making base that encouraged coordination and inclusivity. The organizing collective and many participants stressed the need for organization and cooperation within the emerging anarchist movement.

A crowd of around 12 people from Olympia showed up by different means. I facilitated the Art & Revolution Core with David Solnit and others from Olympia and San Francisco. I offer my impressions of the week as a participant, but my experience is limited as my facilitation work kept me from much of the conference workshops and forums.

Two goals dominated the Art & Revolution Core. The first was to share skills and work in groups to create a cohesive theater demonstration in alliance with a local radical group, the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty (OCAP). The second was to create an organizational framework of ideas and action that people from all over the continent could take back to their groups or organizations. Working with a local group on Toronto poverty issues was challenging and signified a step forward from abstract demonstrations divorced from the reality of the locality. An action had been planned for Saturday as an alliance between Anti-Racist Action, OCAP, and AR. Art & Revolution Core devoted its week to creating images and developing theater for the action named Hands Off Street Youth. Street youth in Toronto faced police intimidation and brutality all summer for working street corners with squeegees. They squeegee windows to earn money to survive. The mayor of Toronto declared war on the squeegee kids, calling them lazy thugs and drug addicts. The action planned to take over the streets and march to a police station showing support of people who squeegee, demanding an end to the brutality, and creating an awareness of the social and political criminalization of poor people.



HANDS OFF STREET YOUTH -A wood-cut banner made by San Francisco artist working with Art & Revolution.

Rumors of rioting spread all week mostly due to the backlash of a 1988 anarchist gathering in Toronto that escalated to violence after the U.S. downed an Iranian jetliner. The U.S. missile strikes on Sudan and Afghan during the conference were an eerie replay to the scenario in Toronto a decade ago. Organizers mobilized people Friday morning to storm the U.S. embassy doing street theater and music. All remained contained and peaceful despite the rows of riot cops watching the march.

The Saturday demonstration drew over 500 people (a national paper overestimated our numbers at 1,000) and was a complete success. The positive media coverage of the conference and the intense work of local organizers publicized the police cruelty, and the boys in blue were on their best behavior. The march took over main streets through downtown and occupied an intersection where many squeegee kid arrests had occurred. We plugged up traffic for two hours. The demonstration ended at the police station where we did massive street theater with giant puppets and listened to the fiery words of local organizers. The march wound down in a nearby park, the music still playing.

Sunday, the seventh and last day of the conference, was a day of evaluation, talk of the next conference, and good-byes. With little hesitation, I can say that people having participated in any part of the conference left with friends and contacts, new skills, and renewed energy to tackle the systems of oppression and inequality that face every community. For me, the intensity of the week and the challenges I faced pushed me to a new level of commitment and confidence in the struggle of everyday revolution.

THE RIGHT TO SURVIVE puppet leads the march, which occupied a major intersection for 10 minutes

Squeegee Kids spontaneously made their own signs clearly defining the issue.

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Speaking Two Languages is an Asset

Elizabeth Martinez

I grew up on the East Coast with a Mexican father who had immigrated about ten years before my birth. He was proud of speaking a beautiful language and coming from a rich culture.

We were all supposed to speak Spanish at dinner, and I had to put a nickel into a bowl if I slipped into English. I humored my father reluctantly and, thanks to his patient persistence, I grew up knowing some Spanish.

But it never occurred to me at the time that I should be proud, not ashamed, of being bilingual.

Kids mocked my Spanish nickname, and some of the neighbors' children weren't allowed to play with me.

People would say, "You don't look Mexican -- you speak English so well!" as a compliment. It would be years before I answered proudly, "Yes, I'm bilingual."

Our dominant culture suffers from a dreary impoverishment that places very little value on knowing any language other than English. In recent years, 23 states have passed "English only" laws. To speak any other language has been made to seem un-American, even unpatriotic.

We need to shake off the arrogance that says English is the only language worth knowing. Instead we need to recognize that the languages and cultures brought by immigrant children are gifts, not liabilities.

A passionate debate rages today in many parts of the nation about the merits of bilingual learning. And on June 2, voters in California could abolish bilingual education by voting for Proposition 227.

In the heat of the battle, a vital message is rarely heard: There is great merit in knowing two languages (not to mention three or four). People all over the world recognize that reality, but our society seems blind to it.

In today's shrinking world, this proves true in the job market, in business, and in getting along in an ever more complex society.

That attitude didn't always prevail. The Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation were written in German, Dutch and French, as well as English. The Constitution was translated into several languages. Between 1839 and 1917, various states used German, French and Spanish for instruction.

But then the tide turned. One reason was anti-German sentiment lingering from World War I. Today, many people see children coming to school who speak languages other than English as having a problem to be corrected, not an advantage to be retained.

In fact, studies show the best way to learn a new language is to master the one you already have. That's the basis for grasping principles of literacy, grammar and other linguistic skills. For example, Virginia Collier and Wayne Thomas at George Mason University made a study of 42,000 students over a 13-year period that demonstrated the success of bilingual education.

We need to shake off the arrogance that says English is the only language worth knowing. Instead we need to recognize that the languages and cultures brought by immigrant children are gifts, not liabilities.

by Margaret Randall

Two centuries ago, Benjamin Franklin and others tried to pass an "English only" law for the new United States. Delegates at the Constitutional Convention resoundingly rejected this move. They said it was not the English language, but a common belief in democracy, that bound the colonists together.

We would do well to remember that idea right now.

Elizabeth Martinez teaches women's studies and ethnic studies in the California State University system and has published six books, including "500 Years of Chicano History," which is distributed by the SouthWest Organizing Project of Albuquerque. Copyright 1998, Elizabeth Martinez. Call the Progressive Media Project for information, 608-257-4626.

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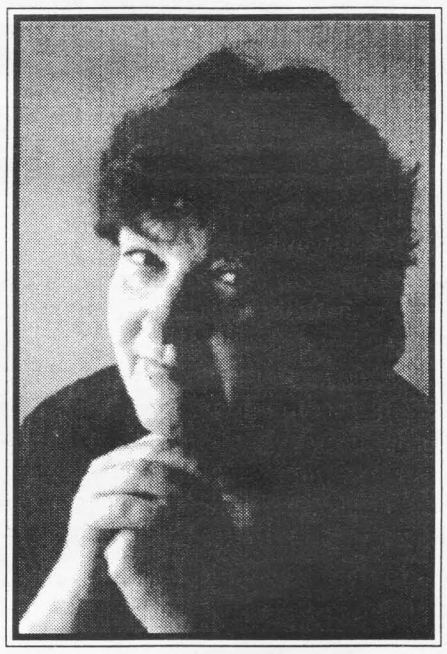

Mercedes Lynn de Uriarte

Three of my students are caught in a vise. No, they're not having problems with their grades. They're having problems with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

One honor student needs an employment authorization document (EAD) to take an internship offered for the summer. If she can't get the internship, she can't graduate.

Another student is raising a 12-year-old daughter by herself. She is waiting for an updated visa that would allow her to work while studying. If she doesn't get it, university housing will evict her within 30 days and she won't have a way to pay rent in any other building.

My third student, recently married, still waits for word on his I-485, the INS's change-of-status document. Until it arrives, the couple must struggle along on one income instead of the two they need. Meanwhile, he has had to turn down several jobs that would have assured his financial security.

Their fates, along with millions of others, languish in the INS. In 1996, 1.3 million people waited in immigration limbo. In 1997, it was 1.5 million. The backlog is expected to reach 2 million this year.

Most of them are legal residents who have waited the required five years to apply. They form the largest backlog in the history of the INS.

The system favors the well off and those with the most education. It requires individuals to be financially independent during the waiting period before they qualify for a green card that permits them to work.

Immigration fees are at an all-time high and delays of 18 months to two years render some of the data obsolete. For example, immigrants often need to repeat costly procedures like criminal background checks because these expire after 15 months.

Already the system favors the well off and those with the most education. It requires individuals to be financially independent during the waiting period before they qualify for a green card that permits them to work.

From the onset, INS is not user-friendly. Complex telephone trees shuttle callers through a confusing forest of options. And the INS forms are written in legalese. It is often difficult to know where to address questions because paperwork can come from more than one office.

Peter Schey, President of the Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law in Los Angeles, says one reason it's so hard for immigrants to become citizens is that the system prioritizes surveillance and detention over normalization. Border patrol and deportation come before new voters. He says the INS doesn't allocate enough money to assist those playing by the rules.

Maybe senior immigration officials should file for citizenship to test the system. Then perhaps they, too, might ask, "Is this any way to treat new Americans?"

Mercedes Lynn de Uriarte teaches journalism and Latin American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. *Copyright 1998, Mercedes Lynn de Uriarte. Call the Progressive Media Project for information, 608-257-4626.*

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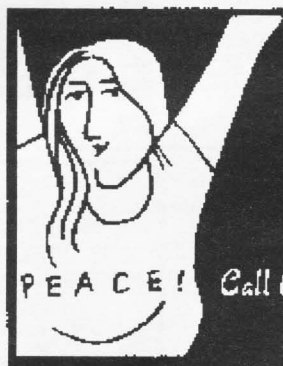

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Telephone Workers Strike US West

Jerry White

Sunday morning, 18 August 1998, 34,400 telephone workers in 13 western states of the United States walked off the job in a dispute involving regional phone company US West and the Communication Workers of America (CWA). The company is demanding health benefit concessions, continued high-levels of mandatory overtime and a system which would tie wage increases to job performance. This is the company's first strike since it emerged as one of the regional "Baby Bell" phone companies from the break up of AT & T in 1984.

A federal mediator urged CWA and US West negotiators to take a day off Monday to reassess their positions. No new talks have been scheduled.

The Denver-based company's 25 million customers have been affected by delays in repairs, installation and directory assistance calls. The company said it had trained 15,000 management employees who will work 12 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week to maintain operations. US West has blamed some phone service interruptions on alleged acts of vandalism.

One of the company's major demands is that workers accept inferior family medical coverage or pay more out-of-pocket expenses to retain their present level of health insurance. The present managed health care system, worked out jointly by the CWA and management, saved the company $4 million last year. US West is seeking further cost reductions. According to the union, if workers did not switch to a health care scheme selected by the company, they would have to pay an additional $1,370 in Denver, $2,400 in Utah and $3,800 in Washington state to maintain their present coverage.

Thousands of US West employees are also angered because they are forced to work 60 hours or more a week. Over the last five years, US West has downsized its unionized workforce by 12.5 percent while increasing the number of access lines it operates by 20 percent. This has led to a huge increase in mandatory overtime.

US West wants to maintain unlimited levels of overtime this year and has proposed a limit of 65 hours a week starting next year. The company also wants to slash premium pay so that workers can be compelled to work 12 or 14 hours a day at normal "straight time" pay rates.

In addition, US West wants to base salary increases for maintenance and installation technicians on job performance, the first such proposal by a regional phone company. Under this system, technicians would have to meet precise time standards for job completion and would be penalized for factors beyond their control like driving distances, changing weather conditions and incorrect job dispatching. Workers would also be pressed to shorten and rush their visits to customers, and cut corners on safety.

The CWA is not opposed to pay-for-performance plans in principle. It has already agreed to such a system for US West sales representatives and sets productivity goals jointly with management. However, a CWA spokesperson said the new proposal for technicians was "unworkable" because management "does not have a good sense of measure" to set targets unilaterally.

As in the previous negotiations with the telecommunications companies this year, one of the chief concerns of the CWA leadership is getting access to the growing number of nonunion employees who work in US West's growth areas, like data networking and Internet services. In the agreements signed over the last few months with Bell Atlantic, Bell South, Ameritech and others, the companies agreed to "expedited" union elections at many of their nonunion facilities. Management voluntarily acceded to the union's demands on this question because in previous agreements, the CWA has agreed to substandard wage and benefits in exchange for the opportunity to collect union dues.

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THE TOWERS OF BABEL
"HEY! THEY USED TO BUILD TOWERS TO TALK WITH ME!"
"WITH JUST A FEW MORE TOWERS, THEY'LL COVER MORE AREA THAN YOU DO."
AT+T CELL TOWER
AUST

The rapid advances in technology, coupled with the ruthless competition unleashed by government deregulation, have led to ever more demands for a flexible and low-paid work force.

The rapid advances in technology, coupled with the ruthless competition unleashed by government deregulation, have led to ever more demands for a flexible and low-paid work force. Far from opposing these attacks, the CWA has collaborated with the phone companies to slash costs and enable them to compete with nonunion local exchange carriers. CWA President Morton Bahr sits on President Clinton's Advisory Commission on the Information Infrastructure and is a supporter of the bipartisan Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996 which further opened the door to unrestrained cost-cutting and downsizing in the industry.

On August 9 the CWA called a strike by 73,000 workers at Bell Atlantic after workers refused to work overtime and launched a wildcat strike in New York on the eve of the contract expiration. Fifty-eight hours later the union called off the strike and signed an agreement that was hailed by Bell Atlantic and Wall Street.

The CWA's record of collaboration with the phone companies has undoubtedly encouraged US West management to press ahead with its demands for sweeping concessions.

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What Prisons Are All About

No Business Like Snow Business

Robert J. Zani

With all the hype, hooey, and hullabaloo, the mainstream/mass media has spewed out over the past 15 or so years about crime, you'd think someone would get the story right! So far, no one has. That's so sad, so tragic, when you think about it.

The Far Right, the capitalist right, and part of the middle spent decades shouting and finger pointing at the totalitarian prison gulags in Stalinist Russia. They made an icon out of Russian writer Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn and his works, including the marvelous *Gulag Archipelago*. All those gulag prisons were referred to as proof of an "Evil Empire", a failed, decadent and totalitarian system, a police state steeped in corruption, oppression, and suppression. So prisons were needed everywhere.

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. With the far right and capitalists leading the way, the federal government now incarcerates more people than "Communist" China. (China has 1.4 million individuals in prison.) Further, there are 166 prisoners in China per 100,000 people, compared with 187 in Taiwan, 210 in Singapore, and 614 in the United States. The world average is 105. (ref. *New Ghosts, Old Ghosts: Prison and Labor Reform Camps in China*, by James Seymour and Richard Anderson, M.E. Sharpe (pub) 1998.) Obviously the Republican Party and some like minded Democrat fellow travelers have adopted Cecil B. DeMille's dictum: "Preach agin it, while you wallow in it!" Finger pointing at China, Russia and others, while slyly not mentioning America, has made good show; and after all, there's no business like show business.

Then there are the shocking American crime statistics. In the nine largest American cities, according to recent figures from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, *arrests* are made in only 20 percent of all *reported* crimes; and well over one-half of all crimes go unreported. So of all crimes committed, arrests are made in no more than 10 percent of the cases. Upwards of 90 percent of all American criminals are never so much as arrested! (NAFTA advocates should note that the *arrest* to *reported* crimes rate in Mexico city in 1997 was approximately 3 percent!) Add to all this the innocents in American prisons, the estimated millions of Americans who commit crimes by deliberately not reporting or underreporting taxes owed, and the hundreds of thousands of persons who *annually* enter the U.S. of A. illegally (a crime), and the true American crime situation comes into 20-20 focus. *The hard fact is that in America, prisons as we have them have nothing to do with crime.* Anyone who believes American prisons have anything to do with crime or criminals no doubt also believes in the tooth fairy and Easter bunny. To address the American crime problem with force/repression/incarceration it would be necessary to lock up 35-40 million Americans. A police state is very expensive—much more so than a welfare state. As it now stands, the simple truth is that American prisons are poor houses. And they are big business for capitalism: capitalism's latest and most milkable cash cow. Captive consumers. Consumers with a forced captive audience mentality. Slave labor. A dumping ground for unsalable (elsewhere) merchandise. Prisoncrats buy anything. Who sees? Who cares?

And the show is not over. Hard right and disingenuous, rapacious capitalist propaganda notwith-standing, prisons are created and sustained for prison administrators scientific truth which is—

Whatever may be said, or believed, to the contrary, institutions of all kinds are run for the benefit of the custodians, not *for the patients, prisoners, clients, or even customers. An institution is an organism, and every organism is designed to serve its own ends first, whether those ends be administrative or pecuniary.*

Capitalists are living their dream here and now: turn America into a fascist police state, turn a profit on all fronts, and turn their back on fellow Americans. Meanwhile, although American prisons today are nothing more than poor houses and warehouses, they do function as crime colleges. As the recidivist rate proves, the more individuals incarcerated the more recidivists there are in training! The life blood of big business and capitalism is repeat customers, and in the prison business, repeat customers are called "recidivists." Rapacious capitalists have discovered a perpetual motion device, an everblooming money tree. In some states, such as Texas which pays no prisoner wages, what could be better than absolute slave labor? Squeeze the life blood out of poor house residents. Plutocrats know that American prisons have nothing to do with crime, but rely on Abe Lincoln's statement—"you can fool all of the people some of the time"—to rest certain that the American public will not catch on.

Mr. Zani is currently a prisoner in the Texas prison system.

...in America, prisons have nothing to do with crime. To address the American crime problem it would be necessary to lock up 35-40 million Americans....the simple truth is that American prisons are poor houses.

Books To Prisoners Page

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

Books to Prisoners

• Thanks to Storman's Bayview and Ralph's Thriftway and everyone who donated receipts for last quarter. We got enough to pay two months rent. Keep those receipts coming in! It really helps.

• We're thanking Sound Hours, WOMAD, Spearhead, Sandman, and all the volunteers who made the August 1st benefit a real success for everyone.

• Thanks to Zonta's for your donation earlier this summer, it was a big help.

• Thanks to Barnes and Noble for their book donation.

• Thanks to all the local independent bookstores: Orca, Browsers, Budd Bay and Tillikum for their continuing support.

• Thank you to all folks in the community and all B to P volunteers who have donated books, funds, stamps and energy. You are terrific!!!

Your Help Is Needed

Because of the huge number of letters Books for Prisoners-Olympia Support Group receives each month and its limited resources, requests often wait many months to be filled. Thousands of letters still remain in boxes. Your help and generousity are urgently needed.

If we desire individuals in this country's prisons to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic, then we too need to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic. We need to "walk the talk." Please donate your time, money or books.

In greatest demand are:

English, Spanish/English, Southeast Asian dictionaries, thesaurus, new almanaces, and GED books.

Frequently requested are:

African-American, Chicano/Latino, and Native American history and progressive U.S. history.

Please donate:

- Any other good books
- Stamps and stamp money
- Money for tape, wrapping paper, copying

Please bring donations of books to the Books to Prisoner-Olympia office at the Liberation Cafe above Bulldog News.

Please make checks payable to Books to Prisoners.

Address: Books to Prisoners c/o Liberation Cafe, 116 4th Ave, Olympia WA 98501

Telephone: (360) 352-7336

Inmates — All correspondence to Books to Prisoners *must* go through the main branch:
Books to Prisoners
Left Bank Books
92 Pike Street
Seattle WA 98101

Urgent, Help!!!

We have nine crates of packages ready to go - inmates waiting since spring for their books. We are in dire need of postage stamps. Postage is expensive even with library rates. Bands, theatre groups, or others who can put together benefits are urgently needed. Call 352-7336 with ideas.

Attention Prisoners

***W.I.P.* seeks articles, artwork (black and white is best) from those in prison. Please send submissions to:**

Works In Progress,
PO Box 295,
Olympia WA 98507-0295

Books to Prisoners September Events

• Books to Prisoners has moved to the downstairs back room at Bull Dog News.

• Open drop in work/training sessions every Thurs. 3-9 pm in the back of Bulldog News, 116 E. 4th, Olympia. *Training takes about 1 hour. Once you are trained you can work anytime Bulldog is open.*

• **Labor Day Celebration** - Sept 7th - Stop by our info table in Sylvester Park Legion and Capitol Way, Olympia. 12 to 5 pm.

• **BTP Volunteer Potluck** - 3rd Sun. of the month (Sept 20th), 3 pm at Liberation Cafe 116 E. 4th Ave, Olympia

• Sept 30th is the end of the quarter for Bayview and Ralph's receipts. Please bring in or mail all the receipts you can dated January through Sept '98. B to P receives 1%. Please send to the address below.

• **Save the UPC code from Western Family Products** and send to B to P, 115 E 4th Ave, Olympia, WA 98501

Briefs & Annoucements, cont.

ter the organ deal, my 7 year-old son told me they should throw him in jail and melt the key."

Odette Junior is a wise 7 year old young man. Perhaps we best listen to him. It is indeed time to melt that key. *Information through the always exquisite*

Mouth Voice of the Disability Nation
61 Brighton Street
Rochester, NY 14607-2656

There's A New Verse to the Same Old Song

by Neva Reece

You've probably read much of this before, but read again, read with new eyes and look around you to recent events.

Three, four, and five hundred years ago the Spanish knew better than the Indians how their lives should be led. They killed, tortured, and enslaved the Native peoples, then Christianized them by force. The Spanish came to the Americas and viewed it from the perspective of The Inquisition. Human beings were seen as evil, all nakedness of the body was perceived as sexually perverted, and so they brought their own illness of the mind and spirit, their own hatred of themselves as human beings to fruition in their policies of genocide and cultural destruction of the native tribes. Fortunately for all of us, they did not totally succeed.

The English and other European groups followed, the witch hunts fresh in their ancestral memories. Much of the attitudes were the same and for the same reasons. The majority of these peoples, fortified by a partial application of their religious faith, sustained and supported by the written Word, moved 'forward', sure of their footing and feeling thoroughly justified in their perceived progress across the continent. God was on their side. Again, to the betterment of our world and the quality of human life, they did not thoroughly succeed.

Today there are people preparing to disrupt cultural practices of native peoples for some of the same reasons as the European settlers of the past. They believe in their hearts that they know better than the Indians. They are filled with righteousness and determination. Though may not carry the banners of Christianity or any religious faith, banners will fly and in the framework of their consciousness, some god is still on their side.

And, so it is that the Sea Shepherd prepares to disrupt the whale hunt of the Makah. The Europeans saw themselves as evil, therefore, it was the only way they could see the native peoples. It was their only window to view the world. And as some in the environmental community can only see human beings, not as any part of the natural order, but only as a destructive force, they will apply their own standards, in this case their own expression of the illness of human-self-hatred, to another people. One or two hundred years ago, this was the mind set that defined the tribes as primitive and ignorant. This was the mind set that in the last century and even in more recent decades, allowed for forced schooling, degradation of languages and customs, destruction of spiritual practices and more.

It's the same old song. The words have changed to match the times, but the meaning is the same. Anybody recognize the melody?

Reader Response

Dear Sir,

This letter is in response to Frank Hoffman's in the July issue of Works In Progress, "What's Freedom."

If one is not economically free there is no freedom. You are a slave. At least the slave owner took care of a slave somewhat as the slave was considered property, like a horse.

Under Capitalism the capitalists like nothing better than to have the workers fight each other. The exploited worker who is in a union making 15.. an hour is all for the capitalist class and keeps most workers making 6.00 an hour down. Also racism divides workers. Also, the capitalist class would try to put the workers against immigrants ('they will take your jobs', etc) This is not freedom. Nor is it freedom to have poisons in the air, food, land, medicines, the atom bomb, etc etc etc. Wages is only the tip of the iceberg that makes workers slaves.

The Socialist Labor Party is the only political party for the workers or working class. For many years they ran a candidate for president of the U.S. Any other political party that calls themselves socialist is a reformist party and will keep things the same. The former Soviet Union was neither socialist or communist. So it failed.

The Socialist Labor Party of America will stand like a rock, yielding nothing until final victory. PO Box 70517 Sunnyvale, CA 94086-0517.

Yours Truly, Milton Poulos

CDC Undercover

Kevin Harvey Sr.
Corcoran State Prison, 8/17/98

In Corcoran State Prison
Mistreated like slaves
Like pigs and wild dogs
How many lives does that save?

Forcing men of strong religion
To cut off their hari
Impelling pernicious chaos
In state prisons everywhere

Forcing men who are peaceful
To go out of control
An act of pure slavery
As the truth now unfolds

No priviliges at all
Always locked in our cells
Because we have long hair
They treat us to hell

Save the Date!

Northwest Student Conference for Farm Worker Justice

with the UFW and PCUN

Farm workers organizing with the United Farm Workers of America and *Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste* will present their experiences and struggles for union contracts, and respect and dignity on the job.

Conference is intended to prepare students for supporting justice for farm workers on their campuses.

Workshops include :

Tactics of Campus Organizing
History & culture of *el movimiento*
Women in the Farm Worker Movement
Environmental Justice
MEChA and *el movimiento*
Labor Movement and UFW
César Chávez's Spirituality and Non-Violent Philosophy

Tentative Speakers Include:

Dolores Huerta — *Co-founder and Secretary-Treasurer of the UFW*

Richard Chavez — *Brother of César Chávez*

Muralist Juanishi Orosco

Friday, October 16th, 1998
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA

Fall student activist gathering - with nuts and bolts training on campus organizing and regional networking among campuses - follows at PLU on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 9am-1pm

Suggested donation of $10 covers lunch and refreshments. Sliding scale freely available. Please RSVP your registration. To pre-register, or for more information, call Erin at the United Farm Workers at (206) 443-7645 or e-mail ufwawa@lgc.apc.org
Co-sponsored by the United Farm Workers and PCUN

Works In Progress Celebrates 100 Issues!

Eight Years and Still Kicking!

Works In Progress, the progressive community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition, celebrates its 100th issue on

Saturday, September 26, 1998 from 6pm-10pm at Studio 321, located at 321 N. Jefferson St. in downtown Olympia.

This event will be FREE to the public!
Food, games, and entertainment will be provided by the Works In Progress collective.

Come and sing with the band!
Music will be provided by Olympia's own Street Karaoke Project.

Information tables about other progressive organizations will also be present.

Come learn more about alternative media or just meet and celebrate with the Workers In Progress.

Donations will be graciously accepted, but the event will be FREE. For more information, please contact event coordinator and WIPster Wendy Ortiz at 360/705-2726 or by e-mail: wip@olywa.net.

Briefs continued

Because we have long hair
They expel us from school
Fire us from out jobs
Breaking Constitutional rules

Beating inmates all the time
Because the color of skin
Doing whatever they feel
Because the badges always win

Shooting inmates in the back
While lying face down
Warning shots until we're dead
Killing only, black and brown

Now safety and security
Has gone down the drain
Because someone in office
Is insidiously insane

So we're begging for justice
Civil rights to prevail
And believe it or not
Begging you just as well

Isn't slavery still a crime?
Discrimination unfair?
Is it wrong to punish people,
Because of color and longer hair?

No!200 City Resolution

Olympia City Council Meeting, Tues. Sep. 1, 7:30pm.
City Hall, downtown Olympia,

There will be a hearing to propose a city resolution that expresses opposition to I-200, the initiative that would end affirmative action in WA state. Make your voice heard at this public event.

LABOR DAY CELEBRATION

Uniting Union & Community
Sylvester Park, Olympia
Monday, September 7th
Noon - 5 p.m.

Featuring Local Performers:
Los Calaveras
Citizens Band
One World Love
Middle Eastern & Mexican Folk Dance

Sponsored by: Thurston Lewis County Labor Council, Washington Federation of State Employees & TESC Labor Center.

Safeplace Volunteers

Rape Relief and Women's Shelter Services is now recruiting dedicated volunteers. Application deadline is September 18. Volunteer training begins October 5. We need your time, talents and experience for:

*counseling and referral
*working with youth
*answering crisis line calls
*facilitating support groups
*community outreach
*fundraising
*office work
*and more!!

For more information, call 360/786-8754 V/TTY

The Olympia Coalition for Equal Opportunity

will be meeting on Wed. Sep. 2; Wed. Sep. 16; Wed. Oct. 7; Wed. Oct. 14, Wed. Oct. 21, and Wed. Oct. 28.

These meetings are held at 7pm at the Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St, downtown Olympia

The Coalition is made up of groups and individuals dedicated to defeating I-200, the initiative that would end affirmative action in Washington state. We work closely with the statewide NO!200 campaign but enjoy the autonomy of being a local civil rights coalition. For more information, please call 360/943-7469.

The Thurston County Tenant's Union

Mon., Sep. 14 at 7pm
Columbia Legal Services Office.

Learn your rights and responsibilites as a tenant. If you have questions about these rights or would like more information, please call 360/413-4438 and leave a message; a volunteer will return your call the following Monday.

Olympia Farmworkers Solidarity Committee

Tuesday, September 15 at 6:30pm

Past and prospective members of the PCUN Solidarity Group are also invited. Please call Louis at 360/709-9073 for more information. Upcoming events include a United Farmworkers Student Activist Conference, speaker Dolores Huerta coming to town, and a visit from farmworkers from Eastern Washington.

National Week of Action Against Raids '98:

October 12-18.

Immigration raids violate human rights, shatter families, and undermine workers' organizing. Stop the war against Immigrants! Demand that Congress stop the raids! The regional press conference and rally will happen in Seattle on Oct. 14. A march and cultural event will be held in Yakima on October 18. For more information, contact the WA Alliance for Immigrant and Refugee Justice, 206/340-9187 or e-mail: wairj@speakeasy.org.

Northwest Student Conference for Farmworker Justice:

Friday, October 16, 9am to 5pm and Oct. 17 from 9am-1pm.

Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA and Sat.,

Farm workers organizing with the United Farmworkers of America and Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste will present their experiences and struggles for union contracts, and respect and dignity on the job. Workshops include: tactics of campus organizing, history and culture of el movimiento, women in the farm worker movement, environmental justice, MEChA and el movimientio, Labor movement and UFW, and Cesar Chavez's spirituality and non-violent philosophy. Dolores Huerta will speak, and there will be a presentation by muralist Juanishi Orosco. Suggested donation covers lunch and refreshments. Sliding scale freely available. Please RSVP by calling Erin at UFW: 206/443-7645 or e-mail: urwawa@igc.apc.org.

(Violence, continued)

never break the law to assassinate a foreign leader, let alone do so and lie about it. Even though the President admitted lying to everyone last week, this is different because this is policy.

And indeed, listening to the emerging consensus on the airwaves, from Puget Sound to the Everglades, Clinton is excoriated for his personal conduct and praised for doing his job well.

I don't know who bombed Nairobi and Dar es Salaam. Whoever did it should be arrested and tried in Kenyan and Tanzanian courts, the entire matter handled by due process.

I think Clinton and the US Government need to be held accountable for the attacks, especially if no evidence of chemical weapons is found at the Shaifa plant.

I have listened to the repeated airings of the bin Laden interview on CNN, I saw it when it was first telecast. I can say that many people agree with him, and have unfortunately renounced diplomacy in favor of violence. I don't know if bin Laden bombed the embassies. I do know that I need to see solid, corroborated evidence before I'm ready to convict him or anyone else. The US Government has told too many lies, done too much wrong, made too many mistakes—like in 1988, when a supposedly state-of-the-art Aegis cruiser, the *Vincennes*, mistook a passenger jet for a fighter plane and shot it down over the Gulf, killing 290 Iranian civilians.

In Japan and around the world, the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is remembered.

In Kenya and throughout Africa, the Green Berets continue to train African troops.

In Jasper, King, Berry and Brewer await trial in a sweltering Texas jail for the lynching of James Byrd.

And in Thurston County, as summer draws to a balmy close, local activists prepare for an intense election season.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE, SUBSCRIBE! (SEE BELOW)

(Welfare, continued)

having baby after baby to collect more money and there wasn't a single Cadillac in the oarking lot. We were a diverse group of people concerned with the problems of poverty. We aere all doing the best we could for our children, the children in our community and ultimately, the children in our nation. And together we were powerful.

I moved to Olympia three years ago. I was dismayed to find there were no organizations like WROC here. But I loved the community and became involved where I could. Then came welfare reform. See what happens when you look the other way, even for an instant? I knew people were in trouble. This legislation is devastating. Senator Edward Kennedy calls it legislated child abuse. I began participating in a monitoring project spearheaded by the Washington Welfare Reform Coalition, an organized attempt to discover how welfare reform is affecting Washington families. I began interviewing families in our area. I have heard some incredibly sad stories, yet am constantly buoyed by people's indomitable strength and dedication to their children. We have some brave families in our area that must fight unbelievable battles against rigid bureaucracies and societal prejudice. These families needed to meet each other and discover that they are not alone in their struggles. Hearing other's experiences often helps alleviate the feelings that being poor is somehow your own fault.

The support I received when I suggested starting a chapter of WROC in Olympia was wonderful. Members of low income advocacy organizations did everything in their power to make it a possibility. The directors of WROC, Fair Budget and Washington Welfare Reform Coalition have been attending and facilitating meetings since February. Members from the religious community asked their churches to provide meeting and office space. And members of the low income community find ways despite grueling schedules and multiple crises to offer their energy and skills. The meetings have built from 3 to 4 people to 10 to 15 and hard work is happening between meetings. WROC is a presence in Olympia and is here to stay. WROC meets the first Wednesday of every month at the First United Methodist Chuch, on 5th Avenue and Boundary. Childcare and supper are provided.

For more information, call Monica Peabody - 753-4459.

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WORKS IN PROGRESS

SEPTEMBER 1998 THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION FREE

Maquiladora Union Organizer Fernando Flores and 20 Olympians picket a Hyundai dealership in Lacey on August 8th

photo by Frank Hoffman

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4 Along the Color Line Beyond Integration

5 Impeach Clinton!

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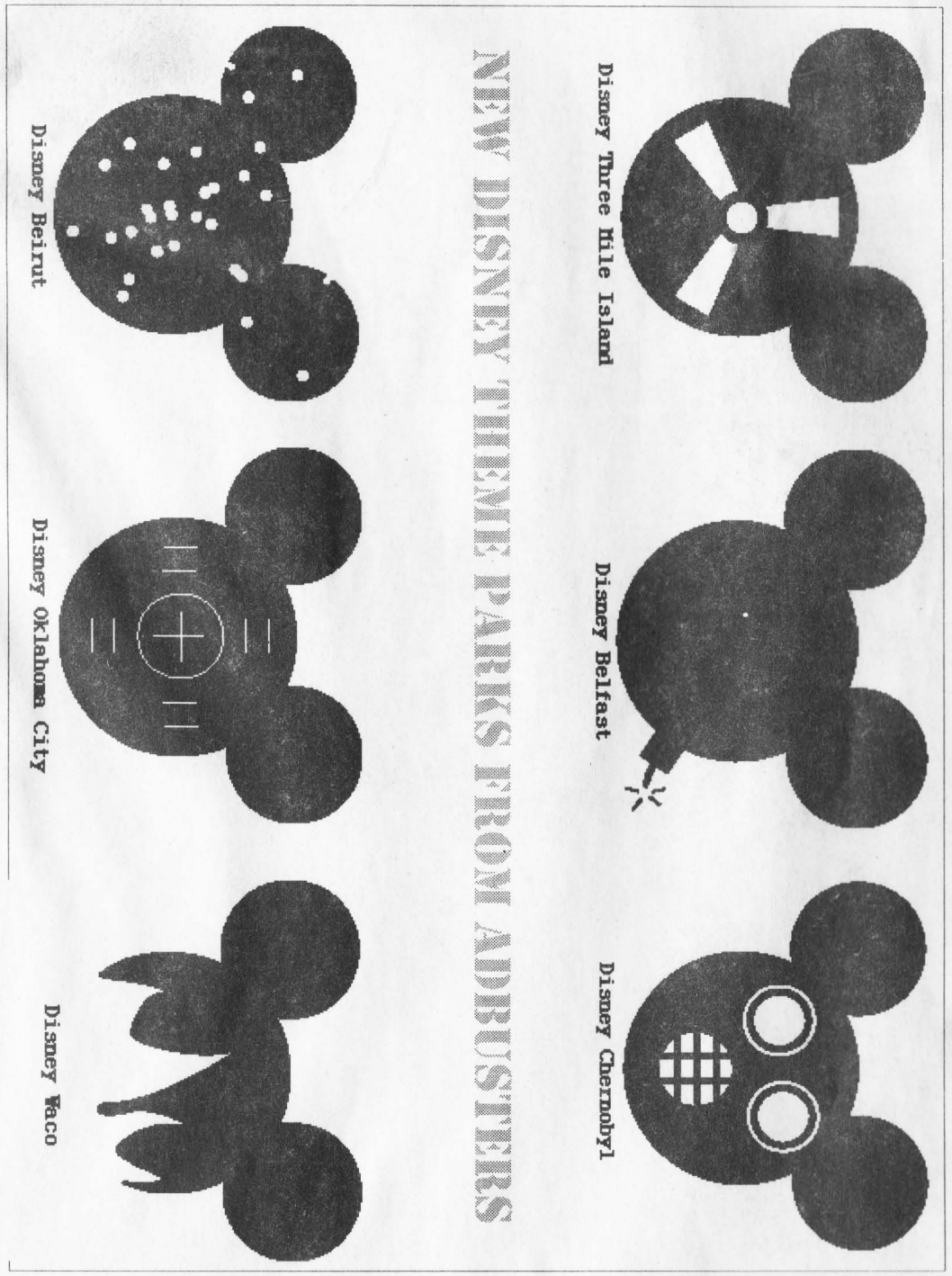

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